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- About the middle of April 1953 Dr. Josef Naas, Director of the East German Academy of Sciences, Berlin, member of the Praesidium of the German Cultural League, and member of the German Peace Committee, was discharged from his post as Academy Director. A few days later, Naas was appointed successor to Prof. Hermann Ludwig Schmid as head of the mathematical department of the Academy Institute for Mathematics, Berlin W 8, Jaegerstrasse 22/23. 1/ The Administrative Director of the Academy of Sciences Dr. Alfons Maikowski was discharged from the Academy.
 - After Naas' discharge, Hans Wittbrodt, head of the Department for Research and Development in the Zentralamt fuer Forschung und Technik (ZAFT), was made Director of the Academy. Wittbrodt assumed his new position immediately, but he will continue to exercise his old ZAFT functions for two more months until a successor is appointed and trained. Dr. Freund (fmu), head of the Commission for the Furtherance of Technical Intelligentsia (Foederungsausschuss fuer die Technische Intelligenz) was appointed Maikowski's successor.
 - Both Naas and Maikowski are loyal Communists; their removal was not the result of doubts of their political attitude. Their dismissal is rather a result of the following two factors:
 - The Academy of Sciences has become to an ever increasing degree the target of political attacks; the attacks culminated recently in charges of inefficiency and Western leanings proffered against the Academy by Walter Ulbricht. 2/ The charges were aimed, of course, against the Praesidium of the Academy as the directing body of the Academy. 3/ A move against the members of the Praesidium would have resulted in undesired public notoriety. Naas and Maikowski were therefore sacrificed in order to meet the increasing criticism of the Academy with the least publicity.
 - Naas' dismissal was the end- or provisory end- of a long struggle for the control of research planning between the Academy and ZAFT. The Academy administration, above all Josef Naas, had taken the position that the Academy should have a decisive hand in the planning of all East German research. Naas and his adherents had pointed to the example of the Russian Academy of Science which, according to them,

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played a decisive role in the planning and organization of research, contrary to conditions in East Germany where ZAFT was the only authority in this field. Russian scientific authorities in Germany had taken a neutral position in this struggle for research control between the Academy and ZAFT.

4. The Praesidium of the Academy had in the past shown more than once its dislike of ZAFT authorities, who are looked upon by most of the Academy personnel as mere technicians, incompetent to plan and organize scientific research. One of the more recent instances is the following one: Prof. Friedrich Moeglich, Director of the Academy Institute for Research on the Physics of Solids in Berlin-Buch, took the side of ZAFT in the struggle for control. Moeglich and Prof. Robert Rompe, head of the Academy Institute for Radiation Sources, Warschauerbruecke, Berlin, are both personal friends of Hans Wittbrodt; they advocated within the Academy Wittbrodt's views about ZAFT control of Academy Research. When ZAFT recently proposed Moeglich as a National Prize winner for 1953, the Praesidium of the Academy intervened with the East German Government against this proposal. Praesidium members Prof. Hans Ertel, head of the Academy Institute for Physical Hydrography, Berlin-Friedrichshagen, and Prof. Karl Lohmann, head of the Institute for Physiological Chemistry at Humboldt University, made a report to the Government pointing out that Moeglich's scientific performance did not warrant a National Prize and that Academy authorities would disapprove the awarding of the prize to Moeglich.
5. The dismissal of Naas and appointment of Wittbrodt signifies a victory of the ZAFT-Wittbrodt-Rompe-Moeglich camp over the Praesidium of the Academy. Shortly before Naas was discharged, a measure taken by him to dismiss all scientists and technicians in Academy Institutes living in West Berlin was revoked. This measure had created much unrest. Naas' dismissal was taken as an opportunity to rescind it.

25X1 2/ [] Comment. Schmid accepted a position at Wuerzburg University.

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25X1 2/ [] Comment. The members of the Praesidium are: Walter Friedrich, President of the Academy; Prof. Johannes Stroux, Vice-President; Prof. Hans Ertel, Vice-President; Prof. Kurt Noack; Prof. Eilhard Mitscherlich; Prof. Karl Lohmann; Prof. Hans Nordmann; Prof. Fritz Hartung; Dr. Josef Naas (dismissed).

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